(c) Recession of glaciers of Himalayan region is part of a world-wise phenomenon and can not be prevented on a large scale in view of the nature of Indian Himalayan glaciers being debris ctovered, the economic feasibility, the scale of operation and the likelihood of pollution. Due to enhanced melting of ice, consequent upon faster recession, the run-off of the Himalayan Rivers may increase marginally.

Pollution abatement measures like interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the rivers for treatment, installation of Sewage Treatment Plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilthes, Electric/improved wood crematoria. River Front Development etc. are implemented under Ganga Action Plan (GAP) in the polluted stretches identified by CPCB. So far a sewage treatment capacity of 1747 million litres per day has been created under both the phases of Ganga Action Plan which includes the sewage treatment capacity for its tributaries. With the pollution abatement works completed so far under GAP Phase-I & II, the water quality of the river Ganga has shown improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality. At present the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan covers 164 towns alongs polluted stretches of 35 identified rivers spread over 20 States in the country for abatement of pollution.

Advise of environment agencies for rich class

†1823. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the environment agencies working within the country have expressed their concern over pollution being spread by the rich class of people;

(b) whether the agencies have advised to prefer travel by train as against aeroplanes;

(c) whether imposition of tax on rich people has also been advised; and

(d) Government's policy with regard to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) A report by the Greenpeace India (GPI) based on the survey of some households appears to have mentioned about carbon emissions by various income classes in the country particularly with respect to persons in the higher and lower income classes. The report however has not undergone any peer review so far.

Various Government initiatives have already been taken by the imperatives of sustainable development in the country, which have lei to the decline in the intensity of energy use and carbon dioxide emissions.

Relocation of people from tiger reserves

1824. SHRIMATI BRINDAKARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and his Ministry are in the process of formulating guidelines and packages for the relocation of people from tiger reserves; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Action has been taken for initiating the process

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.